

1 What is claimed is:

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3 1. An apparatus comprising:

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5 a measurement device for generating measurement information;

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7 a display coupled with the measurement device for displaying the measurement
8 information;

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10 a control panel having a plurality of keys each coupled with the measurement device
11 for controlling a respective operation of the measurement device;

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13 a timer coupled with the control panel for sensing duration of key activation during
14 which a user activates any of the keys of the control panel; and

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16 a controller coupled with the control panel and the timer for initiating the respective
17 operation of the measurement device in response to each key activation, when the
18 duration of key activation is less than a predetermined amount of time;

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20 wherein the controller is coupled with the display for displaying help screen
21 information in context of the respective operation of the measurement device in
22 response to each key activation, when the duration of key activation is greater than
23 the predetermined amount of time.

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25 2. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the controller is adapted for causing the
26 display to cease displaying the help screen information when the user deactivates
27 the key.

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3. A method comprising the steps of :

generating measurement information using a measurement device;

displaying the measurement information using a display for coupled with the measurement device;

controlling a respective operation of the measurement device using a control panel having a plurality of keys each coupled with the measurement device;

sensing duration of key activation during which a user activates any of the keys of the control panel;

initiating the respective operation of the measurement device in response to each key activation, when the duration of key activation is less than a predetermined amount of time; and

displaying help screen information in context of the respective operation of the measurement device in response to each key activation, when the duration of key activation is greater than the predetermined amount of time.

4. A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of ceasing display of the help screen information when the user deactivates the key.

5. An apparatus, comprising:

a measurement device for receiving one or more input signals and generating measurement information related to said input signals;

1 a display coupled with the measurement device for displaying the measurement
2 information;
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4 a control panel having a plurality of keys each coupled with the measurement device
5 for controlling a respective operation of the measurement device; and
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7 a controller coupled with the control panel and including a timer function for sensing
8 duration of key activation during which a user activates a key of the plurality of keys
9 of the control panel;
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11 wherein the controller initiates the respective operation of the measurement device
12 in response to each key activation, when the duration of the key activation is less
13 than a predetermined amount of time; and
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15 wherein the controller is coupled with the display for displaying help screen
16 information in context of the respective operation of the measurement device in
17 response to each key activation, when the duration of the key activation is greater
18 than the predetermined amount of time.
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